

Division of Archeology  
Maryland Geological Survey  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

INTERIM REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SALVAGE AND SURVEY AT POINT LOOK-  
OUT STATE PARK, MARYLAND.\*\*

by JONATHAN.D. KENT

April 1, 1973

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The State of Maryland, ~~Department of Forests and Parks,~~  
*Maryland Park Service*

## FIELDWORK

Heavy construction equipment was moved into the Point Lookout State Park area by Jan. 1, 1973. At that time, it was apparent that the salvage of archaeological materials and information was even more crucial than had formerly been believed. It had been known for many years that the Park was the site of a Civil War prison camp for Confederates. There were additional stories that the area was once a location of Revolutionary War fortifications. If there were any aboriginal occupations there, they were unknown.

*from inform. when date field work began*  
We received a contract for carrying out an archaeological salvage and survey of the entire Park area. The need for rather immediate archaeology at the Park had been established by observations made by George Miller of the St. Mary's City Commission. He had noted numerous artifacts, many of them assignable to the 19th Century, washing out of clay features on the Chesapeake Bay shore. He also observed at low tide, several brick foundations. Tylor Bastian, the State Archaeologist, was called in and decided that indeed, some reconnaissance of the area was called for. The erosion along the shores of the Point was serious, and more information was being lost to natural agencies each day.

Our immediate concern was for the southern portion of the Park. This area was the scene of some of the heaviest traffic during the Civil War (see Beitzell 1972). As such, it was among the highest of priorities for preservation and information. This same area was also the scene of some of the most severe weathering in the past and at present. In an effort to control the natural erosion of the area, the State had instituted a program of erosional control construction, involving the trenching of the shoreline and the subsequent filling of the trenches with tons of rock. Although such a process rapidly destroys archaeological data forever, it will probably

result in the saving of the Point from becoming an island or from complete destruction.

Furthermore, the southern portion of the point was also undergoing major construction activities connected with its development as an attractive and functional recreation/park area. Again, the objectives are worthy of praise, but it meant that immediate salvage work was necessary to recover whatever pertinent archaeological data existed.

Thus, immediate fieldwork was commenced to gather artifacts, locate sites, plot features, and generally fill in gaps of knowledge of the Park area. During the first week of field work, our first crisis occurred when a bulldozer working along the western shore of the Point uncovered a large feature at the base of the earthenwork fort known as Fort Lincoln. (See map). Erosion had already taken its toll on the western wall of the fortification, and most of this wall, including two of the corner gun emplacements, had been eaten away. When the bulldozer came along, it probably scraped off no more than six inches of fill at the base of the earthenworks, and poked a window through the already too thin wall. Work was halted by Park Superintendent Gerald Sword, who, due to his former archaeological experience, realized the importance of the find. The construction company agreed to allow us to adequately record the feature before completing the rip-rap operations. Numerous photographs were taken, and the feature was drawn to scale.

*2 layers brick  
charcoal brick*

*what was  
the feat.?  
why important?*

It would do well at this point, to indicate the importance of Fort Lincoln and its immediate surroundings. The Fort is one of the most prominent features <sup>in the Park</sup> that can definitely be tied to the Civil War. Furthermore, we know through our historical researches that the fort was constructed sometime after the start of the war (1864) and was soon thereafter abandoned. When the war ended, everything constructed during the war of an impermanent nature

soon disappeared. Excavation of the fort, then, is of primary importance as it is, in a very real sense, a closed unit dating to the Civil War. The exposed feature, which underlies the earthen fill, must predate the construction of the fort, or at least be coterminous with it. To excavate Fort Lincoln, then, is to open a sealed time capsule from the past. The weakened west wall, which is constantly being undercut by erosion, and the numerous potholes inside and around the fort, serve as reminders of the necessity for immediate action.

To the immediate north of the fort, on the other side of the small moat, we have located numerous Minie balls and round balls and lead spews from the topsoil and upper clay-loam strata. The nature of these artifacts lead us to believe that here was a site where bullets were molded (Frank B. and Richard Hammond: personal communication; see also Beitzell 1972: 185). No other data has been uncovered with regard to the way these people were living, and further extensive excavations would be of great importance in this regard.

Also, to the east of the fort, i.e. "behind" it, there were found many more Minie balls (see Ibid) and in one pothole or animal burrow, a metal plate overlying directly a single course of brick and charcoal. The metal plate showed traces of soot, and the preliminary conclusion is that this plate was used as a cooking surface over a brick-lined fireplace. Again, further extensive excavations will confirm or deny this hypothesis.

A second critical area was along the eastern shore of the Point. This was the area where features were observed in the grey clay, where foundations were seen, and where artifacts were washing out by the hundreds. Many of the features have now been plotted, artifacts have been collected in a controlled manner, and several lots of artifacts have been collected from excavated features. The analysis of these artifacts, their distribution, and their context should provide much information regarding the nature of the way of

You recommend digging the whole fort?

Historical sources?  
Beitzell only mentions the fort in passing.

minor plants need for. See.

What are these?  
root bark or intrusion - 2x3 ft. irregular



life of the occupants of Point Lookout. These features have now been trenched out and covered with several tons of rock from rip-rap construction.

As mentioned above, our heaviest reconnaissance has taken place in the southern portion of the Point. This is not to say that the rest of the Park has been ignored. We have divided the entire area of the park into grid squares. Our largest division, designated as a zone is 400 feet on a side. Each zone is divided into 36 areas, each 100 feet on a side. Each area is then divided into 100 sectors, 10 feet on a side. Thus it is possible to pinpoint a feature or the location of an artifact lot within a 100 sq. foot area just by referring to its zone, area, and sector coordinates.

Our procedure was then to survey by taking surface collections controlled in the above manner. This has been tried and has proven only moderately successful for the southern portion of the Point, and completely unsuccessful for the northern part. Additional survey is needed in all areas and more extensive test pitting will be required. The lack of success is in large measure ~~due~~ due to the nature of the ground cover in this densely wooded deciduous area. Here, decaying mulch and a blanket of needles has made any sort of ground observation extremely difficult. Adding to the problem is the fact that the hardpan clay subsoil precludes adequate drainage which, when coupled with the high water table in this region, results in semi-swamp conditions in many areas. We do not know how long these edaphic conditions have prevailed in the region, but if some historical geology can demonstrate that these were indeed extant in prehistoric times, the likelihood of any aboriginal occupation would be greatly diminished. At any rate, unless some additional information comes to light which would lead us to test pit certain areas, the test pitting will be done randomly as time and weather permit.

Another technique we employed is to examine carefully the backdirt

i.e., nothing  
found?

sea level is  
rising

from the construction operations. We thought that by troweling through the scraped, trenched, and shoveled clay that we would be able to pick up at least some artifacts that could be tied to an area or zone. We hoped to pick up features such as post holes, trash pits, or foundations that would serve to tie the particular area under construction to some point in time and space, and define its usage in cultural terms. We have come up with several artifacts but no features. We will continue this effort, however.

The following is a listing of sites and cultural areas and features of importance which we have discerned through our surveying and salvage to date:

1. In the water to the west of Fort Lincoln is a wooden feature in the clay resembling a long dark-brown ledge running from North to South and is approximately between 3"- 6" wide. It is about 20 feet long, and lies 9 or 10 feet west of the mean tide water level. It is made up of barnacle ladden wood, and several wooden pegs were observed sticking up in an east-west line at its northern end. One of the students at St. Mary's College has reported seeing brick foundations here, although we have not observed these. The student, Greg Bowen, has also collected artifacts from the surface of the feature at a very low tide. He has turned these over to the Project for examination, cataloguing, and analysis. Mr. Ed McCoy, a local informant, has speculated that this was the remain of a small boat which sunk during a storm a few years ago. We feel that if there is brick there, this interpretation would have to yield to one of some sort of occupational remains being present. Some sort of temporary water shelter could be reasonably constructed around the area to keep it dry during future excavations.

2. In an open field to the north of the recreation area, trenching operations connected with pipe laying adjacent to the causeway have exposed part of what appears to be a midden deposit from the late 19th or early

probe  
for floor

structure?

palast

20th Century. Surface collections in this same open field have yielded similar debris along with a heavy accumulation of brick bats and whole bricks. This is very possibly refuse from the farmhouse visible on both the 1878 Plat map and the 1864 lithograph(See Historical Research below). Test pitting has begun in an attempt to locate this farmhouse.

3. To the north of the abandoned hotel there is an area of heavy washing out of artifacts including glass(some 19th century), ceramics, metal and brick. Analysis of these artifacts is in progress and when we are able to tie in the position of this deposition with that of formerly extant features and buildings, we should be able to discern the cultural context of this washout area.

*late*  
4. Along the Bay shore to the south of the picnic area are several regions of heavy artifactual washout. Foundations and features are visible in the gray clay. One such area contains a brick and oyster shell midden, with large bottle fragments and ceramics, as well as a kerosene lamp base. Another area is observed to contain an extensive brickwork layed in American Bond and containing at least 42 bricks. This bond was common during the Civil War.

*late*  
5. Along the River shore, to the south of the swamp region, there is an additional area of heavy artifactual washout. Analysis similar to that in number 3. above is in progress.

6. St. Mary's County Historian, Mr. Edwin Beitzell, has verbally informed us that there exists a series of trenches to the north of Lake Conoy which he feels may be the location of Revolutionary War Entrenchments. We have not, to date, been able to locate these entrenchments from his descriptions, but they will be located and tested in the near future.

7. Mr. Beitzell has also told us about an area south of Lake Conoy where the initial burials of Civil War dead were located. Testing is planned for this region.

In addition to these areas, our field work had yielded quite a bit of information that was of the negative variety. Specifically, we have examined the entire trenching operations of both the rip-rap and pipe laying activities. In most of these areas, little was found, and the strata appear to be sterile. In addition, the construction of sewage retention tanks has necessitated the digging of 15 foot deep holes measuring 20 feet on a side. These have also proven sterile. Only one sherd has been found (ironstone) at a depth of 5 feet in a bog area. No others were reported from there, and the sherd was not in any feature. This sort of negative evidence serves to eliminate these areas from being considered culturally significant.

*already  
lots  
of  
that!*

Secondly, we have been and are in the process of gathering together all of the artifacts that we can which have been collected by relic hunters and amateurs over the past several years. Much of the relevant material is already in the hands of the Maryland Historical Society and the St. Mary's County Historical Society. Whatever material we do get, will be photographed and analyzed as best as is possible. The major obstacle to be overcome is that the material has been collected with little or no notation as to the provenience and context of the artifacts. Thus, little can be said of activities or activity areas based on these hodge-podges of bullets, buckles, and bottles.

*? in Baltimore?*

All of the artifacts collected are being processed in our laboratory located in the lighthouse at the Point. These facilities have been generously provided by the Parks Service, and we would like to thank them at this time. Here they are washed and each artifact lot is maintained as an integral unit. Metals and leather and other organic materials are placed in a bath for temporary conservation, until permanent preservation techniques can be undertaken. The artifacts are then dried and catalogued. A fuller explanation of our artifact cataloguing technique will be available in our final report. The artifacts are then stored as lots for later examination,

description and matching up broken pieces from different lots.

### HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Research of all available information is an indispensable part of any archaeological explorations, and those at Point Lookout are no exception. A brief description of these researches follows:

1. Deeds of county land holdings are available back to the 1830's. However, these are very poorly indexed. Thus, if a woman inherits property from her husband, there are no records of this transfer kept. Also, if a son or daughter inherits land from the parent or any relative and no monetary purchase has occurred, there is no record made. They have been of some help however.

2. A record of the subdivisions of the land that was to be placed on sale have proven most beneficial. A Plat Map dating to 1878 shows the Point from Lake Conoy southward. There are few geographical reference points shown which would allow for a matching up with the present maps. Also, there has been so much erosion along the Bay shore that matching is almost impossible on the basis of coastal outlines. One feature that does show up on the 1878 Plat Map is a farmhouse. This farmhouse also appears on the 1864 lithograph of the Civil War Camp. It is not now visible in the area. A 1925 Plat Map also does not show the farmhouse, leading us to believe that it was destroyed and/or abandoned during the period from 1878 - 1925. If we are able to locate the farmhouse through archaeological means, we will then have a reference point for matching present and old maps of the Point.

3. A second reference point is the Fort Lincoln area. This area can be located on the 1925 Plat Map due to the fact that the roads which exist today and are the basis for tax subdivisions are the same roads used to subdivide the land in 1925. Thus, Md. Route 5, the perpendicular dirt roads, the location of government owned property, the overall shape of the



point, and the land subdivisions when considered together allow for the matching up of present day maps with the 1925 Plat Map. We now need to make the connection between the 1925 Plat Map and the 1878 Plat Map in order to make the accurate connection between the present condition of the Point and its condition during the Civil War as shown by the 1864 lithograph and the drawing made by Rev. A.B. Cross. This will allow us to tell if either of these drawings are accurate. (See Beitzell 1972: 22-23; 105).

*Pop in  
Logic.*

4. The most definitive source for Point Lookout during the Civil War is Edwin Beitzell's book Point Lookout Prison Camp for Confederates (1972). Mr. Beitzell has also provided much in the way of personal communications and we would like to express our thanks to him. His close friend and research associate, Mr. Ed McCoy of Scotland, Md., has also been a valuable resource person.

*Roy P. Bassler*

*Rutgers Univer.*

5. President Lincoln's book Papers and Correspondence of the President: Abraham Lincoln. 1860 - 1865 makes numerous mentions of the Point area and refers to it in several ways: a. Johnson's Island (Apparently the area was cut off by water during the war); b. Point Lookout; c. Camp Hoffman; d. The Rebel Camp; e. Hammond General Hospital; f. Fort Lincoln (the most numerous reference by far - apparently he preferred this). It is unclear in the above references whether Mr. Lincoln is referring to the camp in general or to specific areas within the camp. At any rate, further research under these various titles should prove rewarding.

6. Another part of our researches has been devoted to the gleaning of comparative sorts of data from other sites of the same period. A partial bibliography has been started and this effort continues. This will become part of the final report and we hope it will be of some value.

7. Aside from the references to the camp in places such as Sidney

*What about  
the so-called  
"photograph"  
studio as a  
point of  
reference?*

Lanier's biography (Starke 1964), and the chapter on prison camps in Manakee's Maryland in the Civil War (1961), the St. Mary's Beacon for the period between 1855 - 1870 contains numerous articles on the Civil War scene in the county, but little reference is made to Point Lookout. Particularly revealing is the political scene during the war. The county appears to have been totally sympathetic to the rebel cause. Several advertisements are contained in the Beacon for runaway slaves.

8. Contacts have been established with the following local people who have provided much pertinent information:

a. Mr. Beitzell and Mr. McCoy who have been helping to locate the once existing structures of the Civil War camp.

b. Mr. Frank B. and Mr. Richard Hammond who have worked over the area around the Fort with metal detectors and who have not only donated their finds to the Historical Society, but also have assisted in the location and identification of both the hypothesized bullet molding site and the cooking site.

c. Mr. Tom Courtney, a long time resident of the area who has helped us to fix the location of the farmhouse.

9. Special mention must be made at this point of Park Superintendant Gerald Sword who has provided invaluable assistance both in locating artifacts and gleaning information from local people regarding the Point. He has also engaged in extensive research on his own in connection with the Project.

Among his contributions are the following:

a. Researches at the National Archives which have yielded the following plans: 1) Several structures within the confines of the Fort; 2) Armaments; and 3) Plans for the Fort itself.

b. An 1823 Coastal Survey map of the area showing, when compared

*their interpretation*

*new?*

with the 1878 Plat Map, a good deal of erosion of the coast of the Bay.

c. Several leads for future investigation.

#### PRIORITIES

Based on historical research and the archaeological surveying to date we have established a list of priorities for archaeological investigation. The procedure and rationale for setting up this list is as follows:

Certain sites are in danger of destruction at some time in the future due to those causes which we mentioned in the opening of the report. They include, among others, potting, heavy traffic, construction, and erosion. The immediacy of their destruction varies, as does the importance of the sites involved for gaining information or for establishing tourist attractions. Therefore, we have set up a table taking these two independent variables into account. The X variable denotes the degree of possible damage to the site in question due to the various causes. A four point scale is thus established:

1. Destruction definite and/or imminent
2. Destruction probable and/or imminent
3. Destruction possible within the near future
4. Destruction unlikely within the near future

A similar four point scale was set up for the Y variable denoting the relative importance of the site under consideration. Thus, the following:

1. Of vital importance for information and/or Park development
2. Very important for information and/or Park development
3. Somewhat important for information and/or Park development
4. Of slight importance for information and/or Park development

By adding the X and Y variables together, a priority ranking is established for these sites. The lower the sum of the two variables, the more important is speedy work and future research in the area under consideration. Our sites and their priorities is given in Table 1. An examination of the chart shows that as far as we are concerned, with regard to these 10 areas, the Fort Lincoln Site is deserving of the most immediate attention while the recreation area has the lowest priority. It should be noted that these priorities are

subject to change as more sites are added to the list, as storms arise, and as tourists and pot-hunters begin to flock to the Point.

### PROJECT INPUT

The following is a summary of those people who are associated with the Project, the nature of this association, and the amount of input into the project effort. Due to careful record keeping, it is possible to break most of this input down into man hours or man day (figured on a 7 hour work day).

*Started 1900, but  
officially 1920*  
1. Jonathan D. Kent, Director of Project. Responsible for all phases of the Project. Field time: 2 days/ week. Research time (including crew training and instruction, reasearch, teaching of research methods, weekly meetings, or seminars, and report writing):  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days/week. Total: 58.5 man days or approximately 410 man hours.

*since 1900  
is 13 weeks =  
65 days  
7  
45 5 hrs*  
2. Silas D. Hurry, full time Project assistant. Responsible to the Director. In charge of field operations in the absence of the Director, including supervision of crew members, coordinating research, and laboratory operations. Field time (including laboratory time): 289 man hours. Research time (including informant interviews and map construction): 65 man hours. Other time (including purchasing of supplies and building equipment): 16 man hours. Total: 370 man hours.

3. R. T. deGrouchy, a Junior student in History at St. Mary's College. Travis has enrolled for credit in History by participating in the Project through a work study course in Historical Archaeology. He participates in seminars, does outside readings connected with period sites and spends 9 hours/week in the field, and 4 hours/week in the lab and doing research. He assists in map preparation, equipment construction, and historical research. He has been involved with the project since the opening of the school term at the end of January. He has spent a total of seven weeks with the Project which at 13 hrs./wk. makes his total time = 91 man hours.

4. Clarke Bursley, Freshman volunteer auditing the work-study course in Historical Archaeology. Field time: 26 man hours.

5. Two volunteer research assistants have donated much in the way of library research to the Project. They are George Adams, recent graduate of St. Mary's College in History, and Albert K. O'Connor, a Senior History student at the College who has also put in 10 hours of field work in surface collection. Total time: 30 hours.

6. George Miller, Laboratory Curator for the St. Mary's City Commission has donated  $1\frac{1}{2}$  man days of Commission time to the setting up of the cataloguing system, meeting with construction personnel, and field observation. Total time: 10 man hours.

7. My wife Janice, has donated 20 hours to surface collecting and excavation.

TOTAL INPUT = 957 man hours.



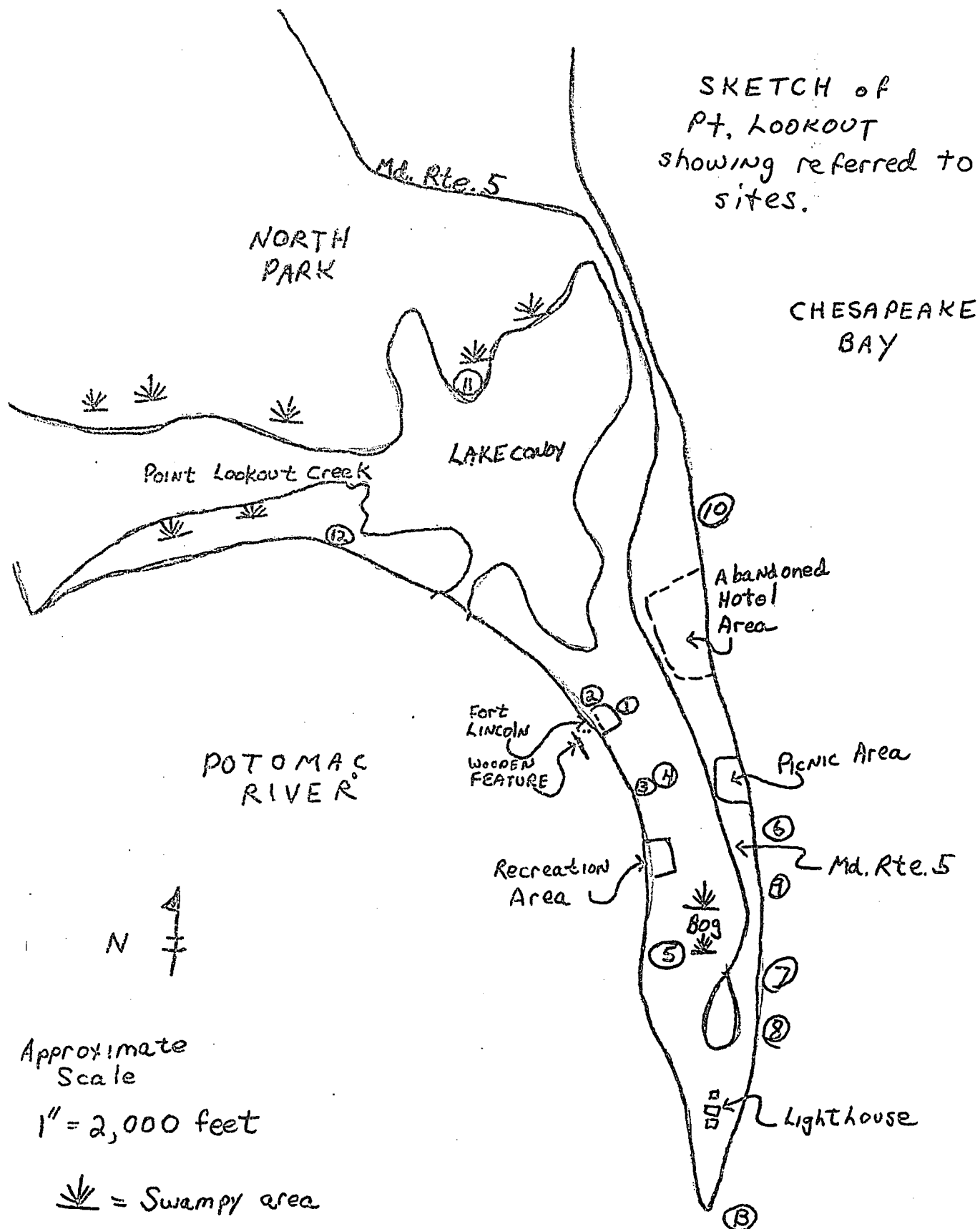
TABLE 1

Priority List of 10 most important sites subject to destruction.\*

Site Description	X (Destruction)	Y (Import.)	X+Y	Rank
1. Intact brick laid in American Bond at southern end of Point.	1.5	2	3.5	(3)
2. Feature areas on Bay side in path of rip-rap operations.	1	2	3	(2)
3. Farmhouse area	4	1	5	(7)
4. Midden exposed by cable and pipe trenching in open field to the north of recreation area	3	3	6	(9)
5. Locating and excavating any remains of Hammond General Hospital	2	2	4	(5)
6. Fort Lincoln and the bullet molding and cooking sites.	1.5	1	2.5	(1)
7. Sites of sewage retention tank installation.	1	4	5	(8)
8. Recreation area	3	3	6	(10)
9. Washout area to the north of the abandoned hotel.	1.5	2.5	4	(4)
10. Possible Rebel Camp area (across Md. Route 5 from Recreation area).	2	2.5	4.5	(6)

\* As of March 31, 1973.

SKETCH of  
PT. LOOKOUT  
showing referred to  
sites.



AREAS DESIGNATED ON MAP  
OF PT. LOOKOUT STATE PARK

1. Cooking site
2. Bullet molding site
3. Possible farmhouse location
4. Midden area
5. Heavy washout area
6. Heavy washout with features and foundations
7. Heavy washout area with features
8. Brickwork laid in American Bond
9. Oystershell and brick midden
10. Heavy washout area
11. Reported entrenchments
12. Possible burial location
13. Supposed area of Hammond General Hospital

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*Lincoln ?*

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Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SALVAGE AND SURVEY  
AT POINT LOOKOUT STATE PARK, MARYLAND

SECOND REPORT

COMPLETION OF FIELD WORK

SUBMITTED BY JONATHAN D. KENT,  
ARCHAEOLOGIST

OCTOBER 17, 1973



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Special thanks go to Park Superintendant Gerald Sword for his assistance and curiosity during the field work phase of the project.

### INTRODUCTION

This report is a summary of the work carried out in the field work phase of the project since the completion of the first interim report. It will be quite brief, with details of excavations and artifact analysis, demonstration of conclusions and interpretations, and final recommendations to be included in the final report.

## SALVAGE WORK

The majority of the work in the field was concerned with salvage operations. The rip-rap construction moved with incredible speed, and when this was combined with the test borings, utility installations (consisting of water and sewage pipes, and telephone cable laying), and excavation of sewage retention tanks, we found we had our hands full in trying to keep abreast of the various projects.

### Rip-rap

As will be noted in the interim report, we had a fairly good idea by this time of where many of the artifact and feature concentrations were located. Thus, as the rip-rap construction moved into the area of the main parking lot and along the shore of the Chesapeake, we felt it necessary to check on these operations at least twice daily. This checking entailed hunting ahead of the bulldozer for artifacts, features, or foundations by troweling and/or shoveling into the bank when the tide was high, or by testing the eroding clay when the tide was out. Our next procedure was to continually check the back dirt thrown up by the bulldozer in an effort to collect artifacts with some degree of horizontal provenience control. This latter procedure netted a significant increase in the number of artifacts, especially in the area of the Chesapeake shore south of the entrance to the main parking lot for visitors to the park, but very few foundations or features.

### Sewage retention tanks and borings

The sewage retention tanks and borings next occupied our attention, and our procedure here was to try to be there when the excavation was taking place. Tanks and borings among those observed included: the tank east of Ft. Lincoln; that west of Md. Rte. 5 opposite the entrance to the state garage; those north of the marinal complex on both sides of

Md. Rte. 5; those located at the bend in the access road leading west from Rte. 5 to the site of our test pitting operations in the hypothesized vicinity of Murphy's farm (depicted on the 1863/1864 lithograph which appears in Beitzell's book following page 21 (Beitzell 1972)); and the boring at the loop of the extreme southern end of Rte. 5.

In only two of these sites were any artifacts noted or collected:

a. To the east of Rte. 5, across from the entrance to the marina complex, the tank excavations threw up back-dirt in which was found artifacts of a domestic type, apparently 20th century (i.e. willow-ware, coke bottle fragments, undecorated ironstone potsherds, plastic, etc.).

b. In the area of the tanks excavated near our test pitting operations connected with Murphy's farm, several brick bats were observed, some of them burnt.

In none of the above cases, were there any features or artifacts observed in a stratigraphic context. The natural stratigraphies of the various excavations were noted and appropriate profiles were drawn.

The most significant of the borings was that at the end of the Point where several potsherds were recovered, as well as faunal remains, some apparently burnt. The ceramics are tentatively identified as 19th century, and the animal remains are of (a) large domestic animal(s). Recovered from the upper layers of this boring were various 20th century artifacts, something which was to be expected.

#### Utility construction

Utility installation operations were taking place all along the east and west sides of Rte. 5, and these were observed in the same manner as the excavation of sewage retention tanks and borings whenever possible. There were two areas which were deemed significant:

a. On the west side of Rte. 5 and immediately north of the entrance

to the marina complex, backhoe excavation and cable laying revealed a stratum of wood, overlain by sterile gray clay. At first, it was thought that this was of no importance as there was no apparent disturbance of the overlying strata. However, when the remains of what was probably a moat surrounding a second earthenwork fortification(not unlike Ft. Lincoln) were discovered less than 300 feet to the west, and when there was found in that moat a stratum almost identical to that observed in the trench, it was then hypothesized that these two areas of wood overlain by gray clay were related.

b. The second area which was determined to be quite important to the study was the wooded field where cable was laid to the immediate north of the entrance to the main parking lot. This is in the approximate area of the blacksmith shop depicted in the lithograph of the Prison camp(Ibid.). Metal detector finds in this area, referred to in the interim report consisted of various metal spikes, horseshoes, and other, presently unidentified metal objects. These were all found almost directly northeast of the cable trench, on the east side of Md. Rte. 5. Although little of worth in terms of dating was found, several more metal fragments turned up. It is possible that this trench is too far to the west to pick up remains of the blacksmith shop.

#### Other

We also attempted to survey as intensively as possible all of the areas designated for future construction activities, both to determine their nature and to decide whether they were important enough to recommend further archaeological work prior to construction. Consequently, surface collections were made and, where necessary, test cuts were excavated to accomplish this objective.

#### EXCAVATIONS



The following areas were investigated by actual excavation techniques:

1) Two 5' x 2' test pits in the primitive camping area immediately north of the access road to this area were excavated to provide information on the limits of the bullet manufacturing site referred to in the interim report. Nothing was found here, implying that the site lies mostly to the south of these test pits.

2) Two 17' x 1' slit trenches through an area of mounded dirt in the woods to the north of the marina complex to determine whether this was possibly the remains of a second earthenwork fortification like Ft. Lincoln. Discovery of what appears to be a moat makes this a definite possibility.

3) One 10' x 10' test pit and five 5' x 2' test pits in the northwest corner of an open field north of the main parking lot. These test pits are near the Potomac and almost due west of the entrance to the state garage. Although no actual structural remains were found, the presence of hundreds of nails, window glass fragments, and numerous 19th century ceramics suggested our proximity to Murphy's farm house.

4) One 5' x 3' "square" located in the primitive camping area, directly west of campsite number 6, and superimposed on top of a washing out feature. This feature, upon excavation was determined to be a two-level, brick-lined oven.

5) Salvage of a 7½ inch square post-hole washing out of the clay on the Chesapeake shore, about 100' north of the shed now used as a restroom facility for park visitors.

6) One 5' x 5' test pit adjacent to the eastern wall of the supposed photographic studio with which we attempted to date the construction of the building. Although numerous artifacts were found which will enable us to date the occupation of the building, none could be unequivocally

associated with the construction of the building.

7) Rod probing and trowel testing the area east of the access road in the primitive camping area, west of the western shore of Lake Conoy, and south of the present channel entrance to the lake was carried out in an effort to locate the original burial ground of Union soldiers.

8) Rod probing the area from north of the present channel entrance to the lake to south of the original entrance to Lake Conoy, again attempting to locate the burial grounds referred to in 7). No artifacts were found in 7) or 8), but ground resistance and topography point to certain parts of the area north of the present channel as likely spots for future investigations.

9) One square superimposed on top of the partly disturbed "cook-site" referred to in the interim report. This is located about 120' east of Ft. Lincoln, and upon excavation numerous bricks, burned bones, and a datable bottle fragment turned up, overlain by undisturbed strata (i.e. not disturbed by pot-hunters, metal detector enthusiasts, etc.).

Each of these areas was excavated because it was in danger of imminent destruction, or because it would provide additional reference points for our determination of the locations of the various structures associated with the Civil War camp, or because it would greatly add to our ability to make reasonable recommendations. Even then, whenever possible, we dug as little of an area as was necessary to accomplish these objectives.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

Other phases of the project were concerned with work carried out by means other than actual excavation or salvage as described above. These activities included a two-day underwater survey by skin divers of both sides of the Point in specified areas; surface collection of

areas adjacent to those where actual excavation took place; surface collection of unexplored areas by means of a random areal selection; locating and recording other features of importance washing out of the shores on both sides of the point; and, further research through documents and local informants on the history of the Point Lookout area.

Through these operations, we were able to piece together not only the locations of the various structures shown on the lithograph( Ibid.) located on the present land, but also those located under water as well. In a report obtained from St. Mary's College, we are able to trace the erosion of the land which has been taking place over the last 150 years. Finally, although reports by most of the local informants were obviously based on the interpretations and descriptions set forth in Mr. Beitzell's book(1972) on the prison camp, several of them are old enough to remember the locations of various structures which we<sup>re</sup> still standing when they were young.

All of the information described briefly above will be elaborated upon in the final report.

#### CONCLUSIONS

In our estimation, a reasonably thorough job has been done in salvaging what material of archaeological and historical importance there was which was under the threat of imminent destruction. We have also located enough reference points and sites to allow us to reconstruct the layout of the former prisoner-of-war camp, and perhaps even identify some pre-Civil War occupation/activity areas . When we complete our artifact analysis and correlate our information, we should be in a very good position to make reasonable recommendations for future investigation, restoration, and construction activities. With these in mind, we will assess the future potential of the park as an area of historic and archaeo-

logical research, as well as its potential as a major attraction for visitors.

REFERENCE

Beitzell, Edwin T.

1972

Point Lookout Prison Camp for Confederates. Published  
by Mr. Beitzell in St. Mary's County, Maryland.

*Draft  
Final in library*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SLAVAGE AND SURVEY AT POINT  
LOCKOUT STATE PARK, MARYLAND

SECOND REPORT  
COMPLETION OF FIELD WORK

SUBMITTED BY JONATHAN D. KENT,  
ARCHAEOLOGIST

## INTRODUCTION

This report is ~~not intended to be detailed or definitive.~~ It is merely a summary of the work carried out in the ~~completion of the~~ field work phase of the project since the completion of the first interim report. As such, it will be quite brief, with details of excavations and artifact analysis, demonstration of conclusions and interpretations, and final recommendations ~~etc~~ <sup>to be included</sup> left out for inclusion in the final report.

## SALVAGE WORK

The majority of the work in the field was concerned with salvage operations. The rip-rap construction moved with incredible speed, and when this was combined with the plumbing work, excavation of sewage retention tanks, test borings, and telephone cable laying operations, we found we had our hands full in trying to keep ahead of or even abreast of the various state works. projects.

### Rip-Rap

As will be noted in reading of the interim report, we had a fairly good idea by this time of where many of the artifact and feature concentrations were located. Thus, as the rip-rap construction moved into the area of the main parking lot and along the shore of the Chesapeake, we felt it necessary to check on these operations at least twice daily. This checking entailed hunting for artifacts, features, or foundations ahead of the bulldozer by troweling and/or shoveling into the bank when the tide was high, or by testing the eroding clay when the tide was out. Our next procedure was to continually check the back dirt thrown up by the bulldozer in an effort to collect artifacts with some degree of horizontal provenience control. This latter procedure netted a significant increase in the number of artifacts, especially in the area of the Chesapeake shore South of the entrance to the main parking lot for visitors to the park.

### Sewage retention tanks and borings

The sewage retention tanks and borings next occupied our attention, and our procedure here was to try to be there when the excavation was taking place. Tanks and borings among those observed included: the tank East of Ft. Lincoln; that West of Md. Rte. 5 opposite the entrance to the state garage; those North of the Marina Complex on both sides of Md. Rte. 5; those located at the bend in the access road leading West from Rte. 5 to the site of our test pitting operations in the hypothesized vicinity of the Clarke Farm House(described below); and the boring within the loop of



the extreme southern end of Rte. 5.

In only two of the retention tank sites were any artifacts noted or collected:

a. To the East of Rte. 5, accross from the entrance to the Marina Complex, the tank excavations threw up back-dirt in which was found artifacts of a domestic type, apparently 20th century (i.e. willow ware, coke bottle fragments, undecorated ironstone sherds, plastic, etc).

b. In the area of the tanks excavated near test pitting operations in connection with the Clarke Farm House, several brick bats were observed in the vicinity of the pits, some of them burnt.<sup>1</sup>  
there

In none of the above cases, were any features observed within a stratigraphic context that were of cultural significance. The natural stratigraphy of the various excavations was noted and appropriate profiles were drawn.

The most significant of the borings was that at the end of the Point where several sherds were recovered, as well as faunal remnants, some apparently burnt. These ceramics are tentatively identified as 19th century, and the animal remains are of (a) large domestic animal(s). Recovered from the upper layers of this boring were various 20th century artifacts, something which is to be expected.

Plumbing and telephone cable-laying work

Telephone cable laying and plumbing operations were taking place all along the East and West sides of Rte. 5, and these were observed in the same manner as the excavation of sewage retention tank pits and borings whenever possible. Here there were two areas which were deemed significant:

a. On the West side of Rte. 5 and immediately North of the entrance to the Marina Complex, backhoe excavation and cable laying revealed a stratum of wood, overlain by sterile gray clay. At first, it was thought that this

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1. A brick bat is taken to mean any portion of a brick smaller than a whole brick, but larger than 1/3 brick.



was of no import as there was no apparent disturbance of the overlying strata. However, when the remains of what was probably a moat surrounding a second earthenwork fortification were discovered less than 300' due West of this trench and within this moat was a stratum almost exactly like the one observed in this trench (rotted wood and overlying gray clay strata), it was hypothesized that these two wood levels were related. ~~A discussion of the fort discovered to the West of this trench and more on the relationship of these two strata is below in the section on excavations.~~

b. The second area which was determined to be quite important to the study was the ~~cable operations in the~~ wooded field to the immediate North of the entrance to the main parking lot. This is in the approximate area of the blacksmith shop depicted in the lithograph of 1863/4 (See Beitzell 1972: following p. 21), ~~if the lithograph is taken to be at all accurate.~~<sup>2</sup> Metal detector finds referred to in the interim report consisted of various metal spikes, horseshoes, and other, presently unidentified, metal objects. These were all found almost directly East of the cable trench, on the other side of the ~~road~~ (Rte. 5). Although little of worth in terms of dating was found, several more metal fragments turned up. It is possible that this trench is too far to the West to pick up remains of the blacksmith shop.

#### Other

We also attempted to survey as intensively as possible all of the areas designated for future construction activities, both to determine their nature and to decide whether they were important enough to recommend further archaeological work prior to construction. Consequently, surface collections were made and where necessary, test cuts were excavated to accomplish

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2. The final report will probably show this to be the case.

this objective.<sup>3</sup>

#### EXCAVATIONS

The following areas were the scenes of investigation by actual excavating techniques:

- 1) Two 5'x2' test pits in the primitive camping area immediately North of the access road to this area;
- 2) Two 17'x1' slit trenches through an area of mounded dirt in the woods to the North of the Marina Complex;
- 3) One 10'x10' test pit and five 5'x2' test pits in the northwest corner of an open field North of the main parking lot. These test pits are near the Potomac shore and west of the entrance to the state garage;
- 4) One 5'x3' square located in the primitive camping area, directly West of campsite number 6, and superimposed on top of a washing out feature;
- 5) Salvage of a feature washing out of the clay on the Chesapeake shore, about 100' North of the shed now used as a restroom facility by tourists;
- 6) One 5'x5' test pit adjacent to the eastern wall of the supposed photographic studio;
- 7) Trowel testing and probing of the area to the East of the access road in the primitive camping area, West of the western shore of Lake Conoy, and South of the present channel entrance to the lake;
- 8) One square superimposed on top of the partly disturbed "cook site" referred to in the interim report, located about 120' East of Ft. Lincoln;
- 9) Probing the area from North of the present channel entrance to Lake Conoy to South of the original channel of the lake.

Each of these areas was excavated because it was in danger of imminent destruction, because it would provide additional reference points for our

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3. The map prepared by the consulting engineers was used for this purpose.



determination of the location of the various structures of the Civil War Camp, or because it would greatly add to our ability to make reasonable recommendations. Even then, whenever possible, we dug as little of an area as was necessary to accomplish these objectives.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

Other phases of the project were concerned with work carried out by means other than actual excavation or salvage as described above. These operations included a two-day underwater survey by skin divers of both the Chesapeake and Potomac sides of the Point; surface collection of areas adjacent to those where actual excavation took place; locating and recording other features of importance washing out of the shores on both sides; and, research through documents, local informants, and outside sources on the history of Point Lookout and the interpretation of the work performed.

Through these operations, we were able to piece together not only the locations of the various structures shown on the lithograph which are on land, but some which are under water as well. In a report obtained from St. Mary's College, we are able to trace the erosion of the land which has taken place over the last 150 years. Finally, although reports by most of the local informants were obviously based on the interpretations and descriptions set forth in Mr. Beitzell's book on the prison camp, several of them are old enough to remember ~~where the~~ various structures which were still standing when they were young ~~are located.~~

All of this information will be elaborated upon in the final report.

#### CONCLUSIONS

In our estimation, a reasonably thorough job has been done in salvaging what material of archaeological and historical importance there was which was under the threat of imminent destruction. We have also located enough reference points and sites to allow us to reconstruct the layout of the former prisoner-of-war camp, and perhaps identify some pre-Civil War occupation/activity areas. When we complete our artifact analysis, and we

correlate our information, we should be in a very good position to make reasonable recommendations ~~on~~ future investigations, restoration, and construction activities. With these in mind we will assess the future potential of the park as an area of historic and archaeological research, as well as its potential as a major tourist attraction.

~~FINES~~